We claim:

1(previously presented). Process for manufacturing expanded metal provided with a coating, comprising: applying the coating to a closed metal foil and converting the closed metal foil into expanded metal only after applying the coating.

2(previously presented). Process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating is a coating that improves at least one of adhesiveness of the expanded metal to an electrode material and electron conductivity on a surface of the expanded metal.

3(previously presented). Process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating contains at least one of graphite, another carbon material together with a binder that improves the adhesiveness and one of an organic and inorganic-organic polymer, which is graphitized after the application to the metal.

4(previously presented). Process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the metal comprises one of copper and aluminum.

5(previously presented). Process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the metal foil is subjected to a corona discharge surface treatment before it is coated.

6(previously presented). Process in accordance with claim 1, wherein when the metal foil is converted into said expanded metal, with a short diagonal length of up to 1 mm and a long diagonal length of up to 2 mm.

7(previously presented). Process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the coating is applied by means of at least one of a printing technique, spin

coating, rolling, application with a doctor blade, dip coating, electrostatic powder coating and by means of a plasma process.

8(withdrawn). Expanded metal provided with a coating, manufactured according to a process in accordance with claim 1.

9(withdrawn). Expanded metal provided with a coating, obtained according to a process in accordance with claim 1.

10(withdrawn). Expanded metal provided with a coating in accordance with claim 2.

11(withdrawn). Expanded metal provided with a coating in accordance with claim 3.

12(currently amended). **A method, comprising:** ~~The method of claim 2, further comprising~~

applying a coating to a closed metal foil, wherein the coating is a coating that improves at least one of adhesiveness of the expanded metal to an electrode material and electron conductivity on a surface;

converting the closed metal foil into expanded metal only after applying the coating; and

collecting a current by use of said expanded metal as a current collector associated with one of an anode foil and a cathode foil.

13(currently amended). The method of claim 12, further comprising laminating together the current collector **and one of** ~~in~~ said anode foil and said cathode foil.

14(currently amended). The method of claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ **at least one said** anode foil and ~~the~~ cathode foil **is** ~~are~~ prepared without using a plasticizing agent.

15(currently amended). **A method for manufacturing** ~~The method of claim 2, further comprising using the expanded metal in~~ an electrochemical cell ~~, especially a battery~~**, comprising:**

applying a coating to a closed metal foil, the coating improving at least one of adhesiveness and electron conductivity;

converting the closed metal foil into expanded metal only after applying the coating, thereby providing a current collector;

laminating the expanded metal with an anode foil;

applying a coating to an additional closed metal foil, the coating improving at least one of adhesiveness and electron conductivity;

converting the additional closed metal foil into expanded metal only after applying the coating, thereby providing an additional current collector;

laminating the expanded metal from the additional closed metal foil with a cathode foil;

providing a separator foil and laminating together the current collector with the anode foil, the separator foil and the current collector with the cathode foil.

16(currently amended). The method of claim 15, wherein the **electrochemical cell is configured as** ~~battery is~~ a lithium battery.

17(currently amended). The method of claim 16, wherein **at least one of said anode foil and said cathode foil is prepared without using a** ~~the battery was manufactured according to a technique that does not require addition of~~ plasticizing agent ~~and its subsequent washing out~~.

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